NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)

**National Park Service** 

**United States Department of the Interior** 

OWNER objection

OCT 1 7 1988

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property					
	me change and boundary inc	rease)			
other names/site number Mrs. A.M	1. Watson House, Strate	er House,	Fitzhuah House		
JF565					
2. Location					
street & number 6401 Wolf Per	n Branch Road		not for publication		
city, town Louisville	Harrods	Creek	x vicinity		
state Kentucky code	KY county Jefferson	code	111 zip code 40027		
3. Classification					
Ownership of Property C	ategory of Property	Number of Reso	ources within Property		
x private	building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing		
<del></del>	district	6	1 buildings		
public-State	site	4	0 sites		
public-Federal	structure	3	1 structures		
	object	2	O objects		
	- •	15	2 Total		
Name of related multiple property listing:		Number of contr	ibuting resources previously		
Louisville and Jeffersor	~ . rr_ N1 = 1 = 1 =		ional Register1		
	Property Listing				
4. State/Federal Agency Certificatio	n				
National Register of Historic Places and In my opinion, the property meets  Signature of certifying official Day 1d L.  NA  State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property meets  See attached correspon	does not meet the National Register Morgan, State Historic Pr	criteria. See eservation Officer	continuation sheet.    O-11-88     Date     continuation sheet.		
Signature of commenting or other official			Date		
State or Federal agency and bureau					
5. National Park Service Certificatio	n		Cotomod in this		
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	Ourse abjection we	theliam	Emiliary for the control of the cont		
entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  determined not eligible for the National Register.  removed from the National Register.	Helous By	etermined Il	1/29/92 1911 3/23/09		
other, (explain:)	Signature of the Ke	eper	Date of Action		

6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Fund	ctions (enter categories from instructions)	
Domesticsingle dwelling;	All his	storic functions continue	
secondary structure	as cu	rrent functions	
Landscapegarden: natural fea-	Agricultural/subsistencehorti		
tures: forest: unoccupied land	cultu	ral facility	
Transportationpedestrian-related: r	coad-relat	ed (vehicular)	
7. Description		·	
Architectural Classification	Materials (en	ter categories from instructions)	
(enter categories from instructions)		and the second s	
	foundation _	Concrete	
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals	walls	Brick	
Tudor Revival			
	roof	Slate	
	other	<u> </u>	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Drumanard Historic District (Drumanard) consists of 55 acres of gently rolling land in the vicinity of Harrods Creek, in eastern Jefferson County, Kentucky. The property is located on the north side of Wolf Pen Branch Road just west of the intersection with U.S. 42 and immediately west of the present terminus of I-265 (Gene Snyder Freeway). "Drumanard" is a derivation of the Scottish for "high land" or "hill top."

Drumanard is composed of three groups of resources: a designed historic landscape, an English garden, and a collection of Tudor Revival-style residential buildings (see map). The property contains the following contributing resources:

### Buildings:

Main dwelling
Garage with chauffeur's apartment
Wellhouse (garden storage shed)
Gazebo
Gardener's cottage
Gardener's garage

### Structures:

Entry gates
Service court wall and gates
Interior roadway

### Objects:

Statuary Pond fountain

v	UCI 17 %	e ar
8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this propert		
nationally s	statewide x locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria A B x C	Description of the property of	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)	D DE F XG	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance Significant Dat	es
Landscape Architecture	1929-1940 1929	
Architecture		
	The state of the s	
	Cultural Affiliation	
	n/a	
·		
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
NA NA	Olmsted Associatesdesign land	<u>ls</u> ca
	Arthur Cowellgarden	
	Nevin and Morganbuildings	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Drumanard, the Harrods Creek residence of Maj. and Mrs. Alexander MacKenzie Watson, is significant on the local level under Criterion C for its high design aesthetics. It is a representation of the Country Estate property type in the Suburban Development context. The property features a designed historic landscape authored by the nationally-known firm of Olmsted Associates and a formal garden designed by landscape architect Arthur Cowell of Pennsylvania. It includes a Tudor Revival style residential cluster, one of several such examples by the locally-prominent firm of Nevin and Morgan.

Maj. Watson was the great-grandson of Kentucky Governor John J. . Crittenden. He was a career officer in the United States Marine Corps whose duties included responsibility for securing the American Embassy in Peking following overthrow of the dynastic government. In 1921, upon conclusion of distinguished service with the Marine Corps, Maj. Watson moved to Louisville and became active in civic affairs. He served as a director and in 1957 as a vice-president of the United States Trust Company. Also, he participated in a variety of civic, charitable and religious organizations.

Maj. Watson married Mrs. Jessie Clark Strater, widow of prominent local businessman William Edward Strater, a partner in Strater Brothers Tobacco Company and Strater Brothers Grain Company. Edward LaNauze Strater, their son, inherited Drumanard upon his mother's death. He was an author as well as serving as Vice-President and director of the Majestic Theatre Company.

In 1905 the Straters employed the firm of Olmsted Associates to prepare a plan for the designed historic landscaping on their Harrods Creek farm property. This design underwent several evolutions before it was executed more than twenty years later on that 55-acre parcel as part of the Drumanard country estate.

"Ex-Governor's Great-Grandson Dies; Major Watson was a Banker and Soldier." The Courier-Journal. September 6, 1957.  "Fitzhugh, Henry." Geneological Records, The Filson Club, 1945.  Interview with Mrs. Henry Fitzhugh, September 24, 1987.  Jefferson County Deed Books.  Kramer, Carl. Frederick Law Olmsted and His Louisville Legacy. Louisville Community Design Center: Louisville, 1988.  Previous documentation on file (NPS):   preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested Spreviously listed in the National Register Previously determined eligible by the National Register Primary location of additional data:    State historic preservation office Other State agency Primary location of additional data:   State historic preservation office Other State agency Primary location of additional data:   State historic preservation office Other State agency Primary location of additional data:   State historic preservation office Other State agency Primary location of additional data:   State historic preservation office Other State agency Primary location of additional data:   State historic preservation office Other State agency Primary location of additional data:   State historic preservation office Other State agency Primary location of additional data:   State historic preser	a
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Community Design Center: Louisville, 1988.	
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previously determined eligible by the National Register  designated a National Historic Landmark  recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  Precord #  Dother  Specify repository:  Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation & Jefferson County Office Of	
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in an .8 acre boundary, are listed.	
See continuation sheet	
Boundary Justification	
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The boundaries include all of the land, buildings, structures, sit and objects which were originally and continue to be presently associated with the property. As the property was carefully plant	
with each feature relating to the others, the entire estate is bei	iea Lna
nominated.	J
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Leslee Keys, Administrator	
organization Jeff.Co.Ofc. of Hist.Pres.&Archives date 12 August 1988	
street & number <u>Suite 204, Louisville Gardens</u> telephone (502) 625-5761 city or town <u>Louisville</u> state <u>Kentucky</u> zip code <u>4</u> 0	

9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Sites:

Designed historic landscape Woods Formal Garden Creek

One non-contributing structure and one non-contributing building, respectively the chain link fence (enclosing the dog run) and the greenhouse, have been identified.

### Design Landscape Features

Drumanard features a designed historic landscape authored by Olmsted Associates of Brookline, Massachusetts. This landscape portrays many of the themes promulgated by Olmsted and his firm when conceiving a residential design. Each of these themes will be discussed with respect to its specific use at Drumanard.

Integral to the concept is the impression of restful seclusion which is accomplished through the use of definitive boundaries, an Olmstedian trait. Specifically, this is represented by the presence of a dense woods on the north and west; a substantial border of mature vegetation on the east; and a screened berm enhanced by carefully selected trees on the south.

A pair of convex walls constructed of brick and flanked by finialed piers mark the entrance. A transitional area which is located between these piers and the main building complex is denoted by a quarter-mile-long, tree-lined, curving lane (Photos 1 and 2). This internal roadway leads from the carefully screened entrance to an expansive lawn marked by native vegetation, including dogwood (Cornaceae), redbud (Cercis canadensis), maple (Acer), and oak (Quercus) trees (Photo 3). Transitional areas which afford a note of surprise for the viewer are yet another Olmstedian element.

The lane splits at the approach to a sprawling Tudor Revival style house with the left drive culminating in a circle at the building's entrance (Photo 4). The right drive continues around to the south and east of the house providing visual separation from the main dwelling as well as providing access to the service area which consists

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of a garage, greenhouse, gardens, lawns, and gardener's residence (Photo 5). For the estate's residents this separation insures privacy, an Olmstedian consideration reserved for his country estates.

Landscaping around the house consists of boxwoods and other shrubs of various textures and sizes that enhance the buildings rhythm of exterior features (Photos 6 and 7). Open vistas are provided on the east and north, interrupted only by spectacular examples of individually exhibited trees (Photo 8). The grandeur of these trees has been emphasized by careful maintenance of the property—pruning of lower branches and removal of volunteer offshoots—an Olmstedian concept.

Tree species in this area include sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua), hickory (Carya), elm (Ulmacea), and sephora. To the south of the house is a Kentucky coffee tree (Gymnocladus dioica), an uncommon variety for this locality (Photo 9). All of these tree species emphasize the Olmstedian principle of using species native to the general region, particularly in the case of the last example.

Isolating the secondary dwelling from the primary building cluster—and thereby ensuring privacy for the inhabitants of both houses—is a shallow, treed ravine (Photos 10 and 11). This natural feature includes a creek which runs perpendicular to the drive. This small winding waterway leads the eye from the woods in the west across the manicured lawn to a planned meadow and, finally, to the wooded eastern property boundary. The lawns adjacent to the creek include a variety of species of trees which are contemporary with or pre-date the establishment of the estate. The most notable of these are a collection of sycamores, the bark of which provides a spectacular color contrast to the abundant green of the landscape (Photo 12).

#### Domestic Complex

The main building complex is revealed at the top of a rise between the creek and Wolf Pen Branch Road and includes four buildings. The main house is at the center of the rise while the gardener's shed (formerly the wellhouse) and garage lie to the east. A gazebo is north of the house.

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The main house was listed on the National Register in 1983 for its representation of early 20th century Revival architecture, specifically as interpreted by locally-prominent architects Nevin and Morgan. A more detailed and inclusive description is warranted at this time as the outbuildings, which reflect the design of the main house, are being included in this nomination.

The house, constructed in 1929, was based on a design begun in 1926 by the architectural firm of Nevin and Morgan. The asymmetrical plan, executed with a poured concrete foundation, 18" thick brick walls, and a steeply pitched slate-shingled roof, builds from a main block which separates into equal-sized halves. This main block has three bays and a central entry with massive pilasters and volutes. Interior end wall chimneys have decorative corbelling.

Wall dormers are featured on both primary wings and the main block. Those on the former have gables, and the main block dormer is flat-roofed. Windows are 6/6 sash with those on the main block sporting jack arches.

The first floor interior of the main block features a vestibule flanked by two small rooms, a closet and a dressing room. Beyond the vestibule is the hall which completes the right half of the main block. A reception room, ancillary hall, and library constitute the left side of the main block.

The interior of the hall contains a wide stair with simple railing ascending to a landing, the focus of which is a large Palladian window. The stair continues up to the second floor and attic. At the rear of the house is an entry with sidelights.

Flanking the main block are slightly recessed wings, the left of which is a three-bay section with an interior end wall chimney. The first floor interior of this wing contains the living room. Both rooms feature French doors, the second story pair having decorative iron balconette railings. To the left of this wing is a one-story frame and brick sun porch which was originally screened and is now glassed.

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The wing to the right of the main block is slightly smaller and only one-and-a-half stories in height. This wing houses the dining room, pantry, half bath and elevator.

Connected to the right wing and set halfway back its depth is an L-shaped service wing. Rooms in this section include the kitchen, cold pantry, service entry, laundry and servant's rooms--of which there are three and a bath.

The second floor features seven bedrooms, four baths, a sitting room with a linen press, a dressing room, and a storage room. The house includes three staircases and an attic which is floored over the main block. Four chimneys store a total of 17 flues.

The property's major outbuildings echo the architectural fabric of the main house. Clustered to the east are the wellhouse and three-car garage with chauffeur's residence. On the north is the gazebo. Each building is constructed of solid brick walls set on a poured concrete foundation, and each has a slate-shingled roof (Photo 13).

The wellhouse, which has been converted for garden equipment storage, is a round, conical-roofed structure with a single entry having 9 lights over a horizontal panel. Three small 1/1 double hung sash windows are found equi-distantly spaced along the wall. Immediately below the roof cap is a small opening with 8 exposed frame supports shielding a bell.

The wellhouse serves as a corner for a stepped, capped brick wall with finialed entry piers, the entirety of which conceals a parking court. The space provided will readily accommodate 6 cars, with room left to maneuver.

The brick walls identify three sides of this courtyard space with the fourth defined by the garage. This two-story, steeply-pitched, gable roofed, four-bay building includes an interior chimney with decorative corbelling, four roof dormers--two gabled flanked by one shed and one eyebrow. Below the last of these dormers is the entrance to the chauffeur's second floor apartment. The remaining three bays contain multi-panel overhead vehicular doors, each with a horizontal row of lights.

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Further down and across the drive, to the rear of the formal garden, is the octagonal gazebo constructed in a 6/l American bond brick pattern (Photo 14). It features a decoratively corbelled exterior wall chimney servicing a fireplace with stone mantle shelf. Other details include French doors at each break in the brick support walls in front of which are plain cast iron railings. Also, a ball finial with a weathervane caps the roof. The structure is set into a hill. Below grade is a storage room with two round windows and a single entry door corresponding to that on the garage.

Linking the gazebo to the main house is a formal English garden designed by Arthur Cowell of Pennsylvania (Photos 15 and 16). The formality of Cowell's design harmonizes well with the surrounding landscape and is compatible with Olmstedian influences. The garden is symmetrical in plan and is surrounded by a low, stone wall with capped stone piers supporting a plain cast iron railing with center decoration. The garden's focal point is a pond with fountain. Numerous varieties of trees, shrubs and plantings are found throughout the garden.

Along the rear-wall are two large, classical pieces of statuary. Several small pieces are scattered around the garden area. The placement of these statues and other sculptural pieces illustrate Cowell's knowledge of the work of Olmsted's sons in that the statues are integrated in a "restrained, consistent, and understated fashion" (Kramer, 1988).

### Secondary Buildings

Beyond the primary building cluster is a greenhouse constructed in 1972 (Photo 17). This building provides a suitable environment for the plantings' necessary for maintenance of the formal garden and the landscaping around the primary building cluster. The greenhouse is a three-part building. The center section, of frame sheathed in weatherboard and having a gable roof and sash windows, contains the mechanical systems and storage area. This center section is flanked by glassed rooms, the walls of which form Tudor style arches in the end gables. The entire building rests on a raised, poured concrete foundation.

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This utilitarian building is of recent construction and is a type which frequently was a component of a Country Estate building cluster; therefore, it is a compatible but noncontributing element which serves to facilitate continuance of the landscape function.

At the terminus of the curving drive is a gardener's cottage and garage, both of which were built in 1929 (Photos 18 and 19). The cottage is a one-story, frame building with weatherboard siding and an asphalt shingle, gabled roof. It has 8/1 sash windows and rests on a low, poured concrete foundation. It is contemporary with the primary building cluster of buildings and the landscape elements.

The gardener's garage is a shed-roofed, frame building open on the vehicular entry wall (Photo 20). It is a utilitarian building constructed to store tools and machinery used to maintain Drumanard's grounds.

Drumanard functions as a self-contained, cohesive unit with landscaping which provides an elegant backdrop for the Tudor Revival building cluster. In addition, the landscaping establishes a pastoral setting conducive to maintenance of a relaxed, leisure-oriented environment.

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The character of the Harrods Creek area evolved in the early twentieth century from a series of large farmsteads to a cluster of smaller, yet still substantial, suburban estates. The development of this area reflected a trend which had begun some years earlier to Harrods Creek's southwest and southeast, in Glenview and Anchorage, respectively. This phenomenon was echoed, as well, in the eastern suburbs of Louisville.

Frederick Law Olmsted introduced Louisville and Jefferson County to his nationally-respected theories on landscape architecture in 1888 with the initiation of a parkway system which circulated through the community and culminated in nearly 1,000 acres of designed park land. Throughout the next several decades Olmsted's firm "exchanged correspondence with and/or drew plans for no fewer than one hundred and fifty separate private projects" in the Louisville metropolitan area (Kramer, 1988). Though it is doubtful that all of the firm's designs were actually executed, the amount does reflect the level of interest locally in landscape architecture.

All Olmsted works in Jefferson County documented to have been built are Gardencourt/Norton Sisters Estate, Roseheight/Allen R. Hite Estate, Barnard Hall/Louis Seelbach Estate (JFEC14), Rostrevor/Mrs. Ross Todd Estate, Sunnyview/Frank Fehr Estate, Alloway House/Andrew Cowan Estate (JFEF3037), The John Bates House/Pirtle/Baquie Estate (JF543), P.S. Atherton Estate (JF534), Wyman E. Chess Estate (JF533), Frederick M. Sackett Estate (demolished), Altagate/William S. Speed Estate, Cobble Court/Garnett Cook Estate (JF548), George Garvin Brown Estate (JF569), and Sherley Mansion/Isaac W. Bernheim Estate (JF643) (Kramer, 1988).

Of the properties noted above, those with site numbers represent city or county properties for which at least cursory survey work has been performed. Much of this evaluation concerned the buildings, so that little information has been accumulated, to date, for the designed historic landscapes. A comprehensive Olmsted survey is in the final stages of completion. It is anticipated that this research will assist with future work on these historic properties.

Drumanard is significant as a representative example of Olmstedian philosophy with respect to designed historic landscapes. It is particularly important as one of the few city and county examples of the Country Estate property type with a high level of integrity. Often, property owners subsequent to those who had employed the Olmsteds to prepare the designed landscapes were ignorant of the valuable resources in their stewardship. The Olmstedian impression was lost to uncharacteristic changes or neglect. Therefore, Drumanard, which retains intact all of its principle designed components, is one of the finest local exemplars of the Country Estate property type.

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The Olmsteds were not the only firm to benefit from this interest. Townsend and Fleming of Buffalo and Arthur Cowell of Pennsylvania left their marks on several local estates, as well. A known example of the work of the former firm is Rockledge (JF544) in Glenview. Cowell completed formal gardens for two properties east of Louisville, Ridgeway (JF388) in St. Matthews and the Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF557) in Glenview.

Though Olmsted Associates had included a formal garden in their plans for the Straters' Harrods Creek property, this was never executed. When Mrs. Strater married Maj. Watson and they chose to impose a country estate on the rural setting, Cowell was selected to design an English garden for the property which would harmonize with the Olmsted Associates' landscape design.

The buildings at Drumanard are representative of one of the revival styles popularized around the turn of the 20th century. Completed in 1929, they were designed by the firm of Nevin and Morgan, one of Louisville's most prominent architectural partnerships whose reputation was based on the use of revival motifs. Other examples of revival styles by the firm include the Bingham-Hilliard Estate (JF557), the Bayless House (JF603), Cook House/Cobble Court (JF548), the Schuster Building (JFEH102), and the Scottish Rite Temple (JFCD248), all of which draw upon Nevin and Morgan's repertoire of revival styles.

In 1963 Edward Strater sold Drumanard to Henry and Mary Peabody Fitzhugh. Mr. Fitzhugh was descended from several prominent families: the Fitzhughs and Lees of Virginia; the Carroll family of Carrollton, Maryland; and the Schoenbergers, significant in the steel industry in Pittsburgh.

The influence of all of these participants illustrates a chapter in Jefferson County's social history. Prominent citizens used their influence to shape not only Louisville and Jefferson County's political and economic destiny, but, through art, architecture and landscape architecture its material and social culture.

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### PHOTOGRAPHIC KEY

Drumanard Historic District (JF565)

	640l Wolf Pen Branch Road Harrods Creek Vicinity Louisville, Jefferson County, Kentucky 40027		
	Photographer Repository	Leslee Keys Jefferson County Office of Historic Preservation and Archives	
Photo 1	View Description Date Taken	East Wolf Pen Branch Road approach with entry gates to Drumanard September 1987	
2	View Description Date Taken	Southeast Curving roadway and transitional area; looking toward Wolf Pen Branch Road boundary January 1987	
3	View Description Date Taken	west Circular drive and individually exhibited mature trees January 1987	
4	View Description Date Taken	Northeast Main Dwelling January 1987	
5	View Description Date Taken	East Interior roadway, wellhouse and garage January 1987	
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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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6	View Description	Northwest Main Dwelling		
	Date Taken	January 1987		
7	View Description Date Taken	South Main Dwelling, servant and service wing Non-contributing chain link fence with hedge January 1987		
8	View Description Date Taken	South Main Dwelling, rear facade with locust tree September 1987		
9	View Description Date Taken	Northeast Kentucky coffee tree located between main dwelling and service buildings September 1987		
10	View Description Date Taken	East Ravine and creek September 1987		
11	View Description Date Taken	Northeast Ravine and creek in foreground; gardener's residence in background January 1987		
12	View Description Date Taken	Northwest Cluster of sycamores near creek in ravine January 1987		
13	View Description	Southeast Garage and wellhouse with brick wall		
	Date Taken	January 1987		

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14	View Description	North Gazebo		
	Date Taken	September 1987		
15	View Description Date Taken	West Formal Garden with wall; gazebo at left side of photo January 1987		
	Date Taken	Canualy 1907		
16	View Description	West Stone wall near formal garden		
	Date Taken	January 1987		
17	View Description	North Greenhouse and interior roadway		
	Date Taken	January 1987		
18	View Description	South Interior roadway and sycamores		
	Date Taken	January 1987		
19	View Description	South Gardener's residence		
	Date Taken	January 1987		
20	View Description	North Gardener's garage		
	Date Taken	January 1987		